

## **FABC Mourns Death of Msgr. Pietro Nguyen Van Tai**

Long-time program director of Radio Veritas Asia, Msgr. Pietro Nguyen Van Tai, died on April 21 in a hospital in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam. He was 67.

In 2012, Msgr. Tai served as assistant to the Papal Legate of the 10<sup>th</sup> FABC Plenary Assembly December 10-16 in Xuan Loc diocese east of Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam.

A native of Vinh Long diocese in Vietnam, Msgr. Tai took philosophy and theology education at Pius X Pontifical College in Da Lat, Vietnam.

After post-graduate studies at Urbaniana University and during practicum courses at Radio Vaticana in Rome, he was asked by Propaganda Fide and the then Pontifical Commission for Social Communication to work for the Vietnamese section of the FABC-owned continental short-wave Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) in Manila.

For more than three decades, Msgr. Tai served as program director of Manila-based Radio Veritas Asia, which since its 1969 inauguration, has served up to 17 language services for target areas across Asia and parts of Europe.

RVA's Vietnamese language service was among the pioneer language broadcasts of the station, which actually started reaching overseas listeners in February 1967.

Upon arriving in the Philippines in November 1978, he also started leading the association of Vietnamese religious studying in the country. He held this ministry for most of his life until recently, despite being critically ill.

At the height of the Vietnamese civil war in the 1970s, he was designated chaplain and coordinator of refugees flocking to Philippines under the refugee program initiated by the then Marcos-government and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

In 2009, Msgr. Tai and eight other communication stalwarts pioneered the St. Joseph Freinademetz Communication Center (JFCC). His other initiatives include radio broadcasts of Bible study and liturgies to Communist-ruled Vietnam.

In the age of Internet and digital convergence, he pioneered audio- and video-streaming thru RVA facilities for Vietnamese in the diaspora. Msgr. Tai dreamt that through the means of social communication, people will be "able to follow the Sunday Mass, to hear Bible teachings and to be informed about the life of the Church."

In an interview with AsiaNews, he said: "Pastoral communication helps the Church in Vietnam and other Asian countries. With the transmission of Sunday Mass, believers may participate in the rite."